

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, September 4, 2015

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY OFFERS COMMUNITY MEMBERS FIRSTHAND EXPOSURE TO POLICE OPERATIONS

In the Summer of 2015, Chief Cathy L. Lanier launched the Department's Community Engagement Academy initiative. This initiative allows interested community members the ability to learn firsthand about police operations. Through this initiative the Department seeks to provide all participants with a personal view of the positive aspects and challenges that confront officers on a daily basis. During the six week and twenty-eight hour training program, participants encounter discussion and presentation on the following items:



- Overview of our Recruit Training Program
- Common Policing Scenarios and Challenges
- Juvenile Issues and Youth Investigations
- Overview of Patrol Services and Station Tour
- Overview of Specialized Policing Units (e.g., K-9, bomb squad, harbor patrol)
- Use of Force Discussion
- Discussion on Relevant Policing Topics with Command Staff Members

There are three cohorts of the Community Engagement Academy held annually (Summer, Fall, and Spring). Participants must undergo a basic background check prior to participation.

On July 16, 2015, the Department graduated its first cohort with 20 community members from all seven police districts after more than twenty-eight hours of training, tours, discussion, and presentations regarding Departmental policies, practices, and procedures on various police-related issues.

STAY INFORMED, GET ALERTS ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENTS AND SEVERE WEATHER THROUGH ALERTDC

AlertDC is the official District of Columbia communications system that sends emergency alerts, notifications, and updates to your devices. This system enables the District to provide you with critical information in situations such as traffic conditions, government closures, public safety incidents and severe weather. Get the alerts you want — directly from the District of Columbia's public safety officials and emergency manager. When an incident or emergency occurs, District officials can quickly notify you using this emergency alert and warning system. AlertDC is your personal connection to real-time updates and instructions to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

» MPD is currently preparing for the Fall 2015 Cohort of the Community Engagement Academy. To submit an interest card or to request more information, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/community-engagement-academy>

» Members of the Community Engagement Academy also participated in a discussion regarding law enforcement and society in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Visit the MPD's Community Engagement Academy page to watch members discuss the impact the experience had on them.

What Type Of Alerts Can I Sign Up For? AlertDC is customizable and allows residents to pick and choose what kind of notifications they want to receive. You can elect to receive alerts about traffic incidents, police events impacting public safety, widespread power and water utility outages, city government delays and closings, and more. Residents can sign up for alerts based on alert type and location.

What Type Of Devices Can I Receive My Alerts On? The following devices can be included to receive alerts from AlertDC:

- Text Messaging/SMS
- E-mail
- Cell Phone
- Landlines
- App

How Do I Sign Up? Signing Up for AlertDC is easy! Simply create a user name and password, add contact information then select any additional community updates to receive.

» To get started today, click on the AlertDC “Sign Up For Alerts;” if you already have an account click the “Update Your Profile” button at: <http://hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc>



POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM OFFERS COMMUNITY MEMBERS INSIGHT INTO THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE MPD

The Metropolitan Police Department’s Police Ride-Along program allows residents to accompany officers during their tour of duty in a police vehicle. “Ride-Along” means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying a police officer during part of a normal tour of duty. The primary purpose of a police Ride-Along is to provide an opportunity for the community to see firsthand the day-to-day workings of law enforcement in the District of Columbia. The Ride-Along participant receives important insight into what it means to be a police officer. Criminal Justice students and individuals interested in law enforcement careers have found it particularly useful. The Ride-Along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the police officer’s role in the community.

Other Ride-Along goals are to:

- provide citizens the opportunity to get to know their police officers.
- offer citizens interested in a career in law enforcement an opportunity to examine the job.
- educate the community about the responsibilities of police officers.
- provide an opportunity for police officers to get to know their community.

» For additional contact information and to download an application to participate in the MPD’s Police Ride-Along program, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/ridealong>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Tell Us How We’re Doing. MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service – positive or negative – through MPD’s email groups, our social media,

or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody’s

business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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